



Nebraska Supreme Court Technology Committee

Strategic Plan

2006-2011

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1 Introduction

In January 2006 the Nebraska Supreme Court set in motion a new Technology Committee to help guide the Supreme Court with its deployment of information technology. One of the outcomes of this decision was the creation of a Strategic Planning subcommittee. This document reflects the work of that subcommittee.

Section One of the Strategic Plan covers the Court's technology planning in three areas, Where We Are, Work In Progress and What We Would Like to Do. Section Two is the Technology Committee's Mission Statement. Section Three covers the six high level goals. These goals are further identified and defined in Section Four of the Strategic Plan as Enabling Technology Goals. In Section Five of the Strategic Plan, Benchmark Areas for measuring the progress toward the goals are defined.

1.1 Where We Are

This section provides a brief snapshot of where the courts are with regard to technology use and deployment in 2006.

1.1.1 Supreme Court

The Nebraska Supreme Court is the state's court of last resort. Its decisions are binding on all trial courts, as well as the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court is composed of a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices representing the six Judicial Districts of the State. The Chief Justice represents the State at large and also serves as the executive head of the Nebraska Judicial Branch.

The Supreme Court and the Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals utilize an IBM i-Series mid-range system as a server for their case management system. The Supreme Court Justices and staff use leased personal computers, printers and monitors that are replaced on a three-year basis. These personal computers operate in a Windows Server 2003 environment.

The Supreme Court recently used a variety of technologies in hearing a high-profile case. This particular case was broadcast live via a video feed from the courtroom to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission's control room in the Capitol. The court also allowed the use of state-of-the-art evidence presentation equipment in the court during the trial. The Supreme Court utilized the Court's web site to provide the very latest information on court filings involved with this case to the public.

The Court has recently updated scanning and document conversion equipment to take advantage of optical character recognition technologies to improve staff productivity.

In 2005 wireless network access was added in the Nebraska State Library and the Court's Consultation room. The Nebraska State Library installed a Public Access Internet work station, becoming the only Public Access for Internet service in the Capitol.

The Court has added virtual private network (VPN) access to the local area network to allow for access from remote locations when needed.

1.1.2 Court of Appeals

The Nebraska Court of Appeals is the state's intermediate appellate court. There are currently six judges, who sit in panels or divisions of three judges each. The task of the Court of Appeals is to provide the citizens of Nebraska with clear, impartial and timely resolution of appealed orders and judgments as provided by law.

The Court of Appeals is generally the first court to hear appeals of judgments and orders in criminal, juvenile, civil, domestic relations and probate matters. In addition, the Court of Appeals has appellate jurisdiction over decisions originating in a number of state administrative boards and agencies. Its determination of an appeal is final unless the Nebraska Supreme Court agrees to hear the matter.

The Court of Appeals operates on the same IBM i-Series mid-range system with the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals has four remote locations that operate from a network base as stand-alone offices.

The Court of Appeals Judges and staff use leased personal computers, printers and monitors that are replaced on a three-year basis. These personal computers operate in a Windows Server 2003 environment.

1.1.3 Trial Courts

District Courts

Twelve district court judicial districts serve the state's ninety-three counties and fifty-five district court judges serve within these judicial districts. Judges are required to preside at trials before the court and sit as the judge and fact finder in bench trials. Judges must hear and rule on pre-trial discovery motions, pre-trial and trial evidentiary matters, pre-trial and trial matters relating to rules on pleadings, practice and procedure before the courts. In matters tried before a jury, a judge must supervise and make rulings on jury selection issues, prepare and deliver proper jury instructions and decide matters which arise during jury deliberations.

Douglas County District Court

The Douglas County 4th District Court and staff use county owned personal computers, printers, and monitors that are generally budgeted for replacement on a four-year basis. The Judges, administrative staff and Drug Court also use notebook computers which are also budgeted for replacement on a four-year basis. These personal computers and notebooks operate in a Microsoft Windows 2003 Active Directory network environment primarily over a wireless network infrastructure. The court's desktops and notebooks are standardized on Windows 2000 or greater and Microsoft Office 2003 including email and calendaring which is shared between Judge, Bailiff and Court Reporter.

Case Information and Management: The Douglas County 4th District Court uses the Douglas County Criminal Justice Information System for case management (Douglas County Case Management System “DCCMS”); Lotus Notes Database for Electronic Docketing; Oracle accounting for financial management; and IBM Content Manager to view archived Clerk of the District Court files. The DCCMS includes all Douglas County Clerk of Court records including case history and document filings, case scheduling information, and case financials. To access the DCCMS the courts use Attachmate 6.7 or greater terminal emulator that is loaded on all Court personal computers providing access to the mainframe system. The Douglas County Criminal Justice Information System consists of integrated information from various criminal justice organizations as well as Douglas County departments. The Douglas County Criminal Justice Information System is supported by DOT.Comm which provides all development, maintenance and support. This integrated system includes interfaces with state agencies to exchange data. In addition, DOT.Comm on behalf of the county provides a fee based subscription service called CPAN to the public.

Electronic Docketing System: The Douglas County 4th District Court utilizes a Lotus Notes database program, Electronic Docketing System (EDS) to electronically record docket sheet information. The EDS electronically transmits docket sheet information to the Clerk of Court and to Douglas County Attorneys, Public Defenders and other criminal justice partners who are on the Douglas County Network. EDS can also be accessed by the public on computers located in the Clerk of Court office.

Content Manager Software: The Douglas County 4th District Court has electronic access to the Clerk of Court's case files. All case files and case related documents from 1997 to date are scanned for archival purposes using the IBM Content Manager Program. The court can view these scanned files using Content Manager which is installed on desktop PCs.

Web Page: The Douglas County 4th District Court has a Web Site developed and supported by DOT.Comm. The web site provides information about the Court and its divisions including Conciliation and Mediation Services, Drug Court, Child Support Referees, Library and Administration. The web site can be viewed at www.dc4dc.com.

CaseviewII/Real Time Reporting: The Douglas County 4th District Court provides notebook computers to Judges for use in the courtroom and many Judges use the notebooks to view court reporter's real time translation of the testimony live on CaseviewII software.

Notebook Computers: Douglas County 4th District Court Judges are provided with notebook computers for use in the courtroom, for travel and to work at home. From the courtroom the notebooks access the Douglas County network with a wireless connection and have Microsoft Communicator software for Judges to electronically communicate with the Bailiff when the Judge is in the courtroom as well as internet access for electronic legal research and access to EDS and Content Manager files. For travel and

work at home the notebooks have wireless cards and upon request Judges are provided access to their work desktop through a VPN program ENKOO.

Drug Court Case Management Software: Douglas County 4th District Court uses case management software developed by Analyst International.

Separate Juvenile District Courts

Nebraska has three separate juvenile courts located in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties. In the remaining counties, juvenile matters are heard in the county courts. Separate juvenile courts are courts of record and handle matters involving neglected, dependent, and delinquent children. The separate juvenile courts also have jurisdiction in domestic relations cases where the care, support, or custody of minor children is an issue. The three separate juvenile courts have the same jurisdiction and employ the same procedures as the county courts acting as juvenile courts.

Separate Juvenile Court judges now serve in counties having populations of seventy-five thousand or more. There are currently ten separate juvenile judges sitting in Nebraska's three largest counties: five in Douglas, three in Lancaster and two in Sarpy.

Lancaster and Sarpy County Separate Juvenile District Courts use JUSTICE as their case and financial management system. Efforts are ongoing to provide additional features and functions in JUSTICE to meet the federal guidelines of the American Safe Families Act (ASFA). In 2006 JUSTICE upgraded the reports connected with Juvenile cases to provide Judges and court staff with faster and more accurate data. A data feed from The Health and Human Services NFOCUS group was provided to update court information on wards of the State of Nebraska.

County Courts

There are fifty-nine county judges in twelve county court districts. Jurisdiction of these courts is established by state law which provides that county courts have exclusive original jurisdiction in estate cases, probate matters, guardianship, and conservatorship cases, actions based on a violation of a city or village ordinance, juvenile court matters in counties without a separate juvenile court, adoptions, and eminent domain proceedings. There are approximately three hundred and seventy-five full-time equivalent employment positions in the county court system in addition to the fifty-nine county judges. At minimum there is a clerk magistrate or judicial administrator in each county who is assigned to act as the clerk of the court and court administrator.

The Nebraska District and County courts use the Judicial Users System To Improve Courtroom Efficiency (JUSTICE) system for their case and financial management systems. Currently All District and County courts with the exception of the Douglas County District Court and Separate Juvenile District Court use JUSTICE.

In 2005 JUSTICE handled 395,741 County Court cases, 27,597 District Court cases and 2,699 Separate Juvenile District Court cases or 96.04% of Nebraska's trial court caseload.

The JUSTICE system consists of an IBM i-Series mid-range computer located in every county seat and networked to a central i-Series computer located in Lincoln. A variety of terminals, printers and personal computers are connected locally in each county seat. The network and hardware are leased by the State Court Administrator's Office from the State of Nebraska's, Office of the Chief Information Officer's, Intergovernmental Services Division.

JUSTICE is supported by seven Business Analysts who provide system support, training, court on-site visits and help desk support. JUSTICE is maintained by four contract Technical Analysts. The Technical Analysts provide maintenance and development of the programming code used in JUSTICE applications.

The Lancaster District Court initiated a project to develop the capability for a court to scan, store, index, and retrieve documents filed with the court using the JUSTICE case management system. As a result of this project, JUSTICE was modified to allow a court to link an image of a document to an action recorded in JUSTICE, and to later retrieve that document image by selecting the action from the register of actions. Although the system was developed to meet the requirements of the Lancaster County District Court, the system was designed to allow any court using the JUSTICE case management system to link a document image to an action recorded in JUSTICE. The Lancaster document image project uses the same technology that was developed to support electronic filing. There are currently thirteen District Courts and one County Court using imaging in their courts.

JUSTICE provides data to many other state agencies including Department of Motor Vehicles, State Patrol, Health and Human Services NFOCUS and CHARTS systems, Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, via a direct data inter-exchange. The State Attorney General's Office, Secretary of State's Office and many County Attorney Offices access JUSTICE data through the Nebraska.gov web portal.

JUSTICE provides a fee based subscription service to the public through the State of Nebraska's web portal Nebraska.gov.

1.1.4 Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court

The Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court is composed of seven judges who are initially appointed by the governor and who then remain on the bench for successive six-year terms upon approval of the electorate. Every two years one of the judges is elected as presiding judge by the judges of the court, subject to approval of the Supreme Court. Four judges are located in the State Capitol in Lincoln and three judges are located in the Hall of Justice in Omaha. A judge will travel to any county in the state where an accident occurred to hear a disputed case. A case is first heard by a single judge and, if appealed, the case is then heard by a review panel of three judges of the court. The review is based on the record created at the original hearing, and no new evidence may be introduced. The next level of appeal is to the Nebraska Court of Appeals and ultimately a case may go to the Nebraska Supreme Court.

For administrative purposes, the judges and staff of the court are organized into two operating divisions and eight operating sections. The adjudication division, under the direction of the presiding judge, includes the judges, the Office of the Clerk of the Court, and the Judicial Support Section. The administration division, under the direction of the court administrator, includes the remaining sections as identified below. The court administrator also serves as the chief administrative officer for the court.

Over the last four years, this court invested substantial time and effort to properly analyze and strategize the possibilities for moving towards a “paperless” court. This work included an extensive analysis of the possibility of collaboration with the Nebraska Supreme Court in its efforts to increase ability to electronically file and store documents and information on a statewide basis. That effort at collaboration showed that extensive collaboration was not possible because of extensive differences in the specific missions of the Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Court and all other courts of the state of Nebraska. Some of the differences in mission relate to significant agency type functions of the court arising from statutory obligations in the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act. These functions relate to coverage and claims enforcement, re-education and retraining oversight, dissemination of information, and the process used to review and approve or disapprove applications for lump sum settlements. Another key difference is that the court’s statewide jurisdiction requires statewide judicial mobility, which significantly complicates scheduling and information dissemination on a case-by-case basis.

As a result, the continued expertise developed by this court over the last decade through development of the court’s own IT staff is a positive resource as this court steadily moves forward on IT issues in order to satisfy our client base. This client base includes attorneys representing parties to contested cases, employers (including self-insured employers,) insurance companies, third party administrators, and injured employees without contested cases on file. Without question, all of these clients support this court’s advancement toward electronic filing of documents, storage of those documents and information contained therein, management of that information, and dissemination of decisions, orders, and other administrative information back to the very clients involved in the information input. The mandate for continued, decisive, and productive movement towards a paperless court is clear.

To productively meet this mandate the court engaged in extensive and detailed business process re-engineering efforts across all sections of the court. The latest effort in this regard was recently finalized in the adjudication (clerk of the court and judges) section of the court. The specific results of this entire court wide project resulted in the creation of the broad goal of being paperless by the end of the 2009/2010 biennial budget, or June 30, 2011 – two new budgets away.

As this re-engineering effort proceeded, the extensive interrelationship of information flow across all sections of the court became clear. That interrelationship is beneficial because as work towards paperless processes are successful in one section, there will be cross sectional benefits to other sections of the court. This became particularly clear

when reviewing Vocational Rehabilitation's goal of document management through the use of a message composer system that allows direct filing of documents in the court's Oracle database. Focus of efforts at successful implementation of this system will receive high priority, as success in Vocational Rehabilitation will lead to fairly immediate functional benefits in Adjudication as well as other sections of the court.

The beneficial impact of the Vocational Rehabilitation Section's efforts at message composing and document management has a clear positive impact on efforts made in Coverage and Claims to improve insurance coverage enforcement. Satisfying the statutory mandate for monitored insurance coverage and application of related enforcement efforts increases the need for efficient and effective tracking of bi-directional communication. The benefits of better message composing, storage, and dissemination, carries with it the requirement that Coverage and Claims be able to document, track, and reply to specific questions, requests for proof of coverage, and other related enforcement matters. This creates a significant need for inter-active Telephonic Response Systems and computerized Call Tracking to proceed with increased enforcement and maintain a "paperless" capability. This court is not in a position to hire new people to expand enforcement activity.

It is also fundamentally clear that an analysis of the adjudication section of the court involves defining workflow, and deciding if a change in workflow is appropriate depending upon what software and hardware solutions are implemented. The only way to correctly choose between any proposed implementation of computerized solutions is to track workflow and anticipate or define the inputs required to reach the targeted result while keeping the analysis in a "people" perspective. Any change must not merely make paperless the actual daily work process the court is engaged in at present. That may be the end attained, but broad solution sets must be reviewed prior to implementation. Tools exist in the software market to perform both workflow analysis and workflow implementation with managed change in a real time environment. Implementation of such tools must be a high priority - similar to the prioritization of resources and effort applied towards Vocational Rehabilitation's document management effort - in order to attain a workflow product that is as broadly usable across the Court, not only in adjudication, but in other sections.

1.1.5 Specialty Courts

Drug courts in Nebraska were officially recognized by the State Legislature in January of 2003 with passage of Legislative Bill 454 (LB 454). In April of 2006, the Legislature and Governor approved an appropriations request through Legislative Bill 1060 (LB1060) to assist and implement a statewide system of problem-solving courts.

Nebraska, like many other states, has come to view drug courts and other problem-solving courts as an effective means of addressing substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues, child abuse and neglect, and other contributors that lead to crime and associated negative behaviors. Problem-solving courts uniquely combine common and established practices such as drug testing, enhanced supervision, substance abuse and mental health treatment, and judicial monitoring to better address the needs of the offender, the community and the justice system. Available resources and professionals

within a community require each court to tailor programs and procedures to meet local needs and realities.

The Nebraska Supreme Court recommends that each of the 12 judicial districts of the State of Nebraska establish problem-solving courts which shall include *graduated sanctions and rewards, treatment services, close court monitoring and supervision of progress, and educational or vocational counseling as appropriate* in addition to requirements established by each local jurisdiction.

The Goals of Problem-Solving Courts

The goals of problem-solving courts in Nebraska are:

- To redirect their participants out of the court system;
- To reduce the incidence of the problems that brought the participant into the court system—i.e. substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse/neglect;
- To hold participants accountable for their behavior; and
- To reduce re-entry into the court system

All problem-solving courts are based upon fundamental principles that both define them and account for their success. These principles initially served as the foundation of drug courts throughout the country and are now being successfully adapted by other problem-solving courts. Known as the 10 Key Components, these principles are required by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, with little modification, to serve as the framework for drug courts under its authority.

10 Key Components

- Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
- Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- Eligible participants are identified early and placed promptly in the drug court program.
- Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participant compliance.
- Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.
- Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
- Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
- Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court effectiveness.

Currently there are sixteen Specialty Courts operating in Nebraska. From a technology viewpoint these courts are operating on a variety of servers and software applications. Douglas County supports a server operated by the County's DotComm organization.

Sarpy County operates a server, supported by their information technology group. The remaining counties and courts operate on a single server located in Kearney at the University of Nebraska – Kearney.

The software used by the Specialty Courts creates routine reports on their clients.

1.1.6 Administrative Office of the Courts

The Nebraska Constitution gives general administrative authority over all courts to the Supreme Court and to the Chief Justice as executive head of the judicial branch. The Administrative Office of the Courts provides most services to the court system including developing plans for improvement of the judicial system, serving as a central source of information about the courts, and developing coordination within the branch and with other state agencies.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) currently operates on a Windows 2003 server using leased personal computers, printers and monitors. The hardware is refreshed on a three year basis. The AOC is supported by a Network Administrator and a Computer Support Technician. These positions also provide support for the Supreme Court, Clerk of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Reporter's Office, Nebraska State Library, Probation and Counsel for Discipline.

The AOC completed bids for Digital Audio recorders in 2006. The intent is to begin replacement of the aging analog audio recorders in the county courtrooms.

The AOC created "Fill-In" forms for the Judicial Vacancy Application Package available on the Supreme Court web site. A revised Acceptable Use Policy was created and distributed to all courts in June 2006.

The AOC moved the Windows 2003 server to a more secure (both in a physical and network environment) location. The new location provides an automated backup of data on a daily basis and eliminates the use of tape. The new location provides clean power with generator and battery emergency power.

The AOC participated with several meetings of the State Government Council of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. The AOC's Office joined the Court Information Technology Officers Consortium (CITOC) in January 2006. Membership in this group will help the AOC stay current with technology activities and solutions around the United States.

The AOC staff has the opportunity to expand their knowledge in various areas of their field through Computer Based Training which is available through the Internet for access at any time. Also, informational flyers have been provided to staff to help improve skills in the areas of day to day computer software usage.

1.1.7 Probation

Nebraska Probation's service system includes juvenile intake, traditional probation, and intensive supervision (ISP) probation statewide in addition to its collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services in the Work Ethic Camp. Specialized substance abuse, drug court, other problem solving courts and domestic violence and sex offender supervision services, as well as juvenile-specific probation services, are offered in select areas of the state.

Of probation's 15 probation districts, 2 are juvenile probation exclusively, and 2 are adult probation exclusively. One probation district has separate juvenile and adult probation supervision divisions. The 10 probation districts serve both juveniles and adults on probation, the 6 intensive supervision probation (ISP) regions located throughout state. Each probation district has a principal office, and there are 32 satellite offices that augment the principal offices. Probation personnel consist of line staff probation officers, specialized probation officers, techs, intake officers, support staff, supervisors, coordinators, chief deputies, and a chief probation officer who is responsible for the overall district/region management. Staff allocation is primarily determined measuring task-oriented workloads rather than counting caseloads.

The Office of Probation Administration has a separate Strategic Plan that includes their information technology goals from 2006 to 2011.

1.2 Work In Progress

This section describes the current technology work in progress in 2006.

1.2.1 Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is testing the use of digital audio recorders to replace the analog tape recoding equipment in the courtroom. The advantage of this system is that the digital audio file can be stored electronically and accessed simultaneously by many judges and staff to listen. The file can also be sent as a file attachment to remote users.

Work continues on virtual private network (VPN's) connections that could be used in the event of a disaster or business continuity applications.

The Nebraska State Library is working through the Library Automation committee to automate the card catalog and delivery of Internet based card catalog service for providing patrons' easy access and searching of the library's collections.

Work on a web site redesign for the Supreme Court is well underway. This is a cooperative project involving the AOC's Public Information Office and the Information Technology staff along with Nebraska.gov. The redesigned web site will have new pages created for JUSTICE clients, and the Specialty Courts. One new service will be Real Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. This service will allow members of the court community and the public to subscribe to select web pages to be notified when a change or update has occurred. The rules and opinions web pages are expected to offer the RSS feeds.

1.2.2 Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals is testing the use of digital audio recorders to replace the analog tape recoding equipment in the courtroom. The advantage of this system is that the digital audio file can be stored electronically and accessed simultaneously by many judges and staff to listen. The file can also be sent as a file attachment to remote users.

Work continues on using virtual private network connections to connect the remote Court of Appeals offices into the Supreme Court server. This provides better backup of data and centralizes data in one location for security and disaster recovery services.

1.2.3 Trial Courts

In 2006 a new application for JUSTICE was completed and placed into production. Docket is a JUSTICE system application which provides interactive programs designed to record judicial proceedings in the courtroom thereby creating a printed record for a judge to digitally sign and issue.

A new printer application was developed and placed into production in late June 2006. The new application will provide the ability to use laser printers in an enhanced manner and provide for the use of a digital signature on JUSTICE documentation.

District and County Court Judges were given the opportunity to receive new personal computers in 2006. Desktop and Tablet PC's were distributed in the April-July 2006 timeframe.

Statewide Statistic Reports were automated in JUSTICE in 2006. No longer do Clerk Magistrates and Clerks of the District Court need to manually run and mail in these statistical reports.

Work continues on a variety of Problem Log issues in JUSTICE. Working with the Automation Committee the JUSTICE Business Analysts were able to pare down a large list of problem logs and prioritize them for 2006.

The AOC continues to work with State of Nebraska's, Office of the Chief Information Officer's, Information Services Division on obtaining better hardware for the JUSTICE users.

Work continues on a phased approach for the use of digital recorders to replace the analog tape devices in the County Courts.

Computer Based Training (CBT) was launched in the spring of 2006. CBT provides training courses on personal computer software (Windows, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc) and information technology applications via the Internet. District and County Court judges and staff need only a personal computer and Internet access to take advantage of this service. The service is available 24 hours per day and can be used from the office or from home.

Douglas County District Court

Automated Jury Management: The Douglas County 4th District Court has recently purchased "ACS Juror" software and is partnering with the Douglas County Court the Clerk of the District Court and Douglas County Jury Commissioner to implement the electronic jury management system. This system automates the jury process from creation of a jury pool up to payment of the juror after service is complete. The software is scheduled to begin printing summonses in August 2006 for jurors scheduled to report in October 2006. ASC Juror has an E-Juror component that will be added to the software in the future. E -Juror will allow a prospective juror to use the internet to answer their summons and prepare to serve on jury duty.

Case Management Software: The Douglas County Drug Court case management software is being modified by the developer, Analyst International (AI), for use in the Douglas County 4th District Court Young Adult Court and the Douglas County 4th District Court Conciliation and Mediation Services Office.

Web Page: The content and user friendliness of the Douglas County 4th District Court Web Page continues to be monitored and upgraded.

Standardized Court Orders: EDS is being modified to include an automated order feature allowing entries to generate orders in a word processing format.

Access to Scanned Court Files: In conjunction with the adoption of District Court Local Rule 4-16 limiting the removal of court files from the Clerk of Court office, the Douglas County 4th District Court is working with the Clerk of Court and DOT.Comm to provide the public access to scanned court files with content manager on computers located in the Clerk of Court office and Law Library and is also exploring providing the public remote access to the scanned files over the internet.

Separate Juvenile District Courts

Work on JUSTICE to better meet the needs of the Juvenile Courts continues. Court Improvement Project (CIP) funding is being requested to assist the Court in updating JUSTICE to allow for better and more reliable data.

JUSTICE Juvenile Case Reporting Enhancements NFOCUS Ward Placement Information – This application would involve obtaining and developing a data feed from Nebraska's Health and Human Services Department's NFOCUS group. The data provided would be developed into additional reports for Judges. The data would provide the latest HHS Ward placement information to Judges and court staff. This report would speed up the review process a judge goes through for making decisions. Time period for development and production is August 2006 to October 2006.

JUSTICE Juvenile Case Reporting Enhancements Time Standards -

A second report to be developed is a report that measures Time Standards for Judges based on Federal Guidelines (American Safe Families Act) ASFA. This report would measure the time a judge is taking in the number of days for: a. adjudication of juveniles, b. time for dispositions, and c. days for review hearings. By using a report that actually measures a judge's time in days when involving a juvenile case the Court will be in position to know which judges are meeting the ASFA guidelines and which judges need to be brought up to speed to improve their handling of juvenile cases. Level of effort for this application development is approximately 400 hours at \$75.00 per hour. Time period for development and production is October 2006 to February 2007.

Training Judges and Court Staff on New Applications - A JUSTICE Business Analyst specializing in County Court Case and Financial Management will provide in-depth training on Juvenile court issues. As the above projects are moved into production in JUSTICE; a JUSTICE Business Analyst will be spending time training Judges and court staff in how to use the new applications to keep better informed on the welfare of Nebraska's HHS Ward placements. We estimate this will be approximately 1000 hours from October 2006 through June 2007. Training will be conducted in JUSTICE Training rooms in Lincoln and North Platte, Nebraska as well as on-site in District and County courts throughout Nebraska.

Attend Child Welfare Data Conference – Have one staff member attend the Children's Bureau's National Child Welfare Data Conference. Timeframe June 2007.

Planning further data collection/analysis and judicial performance measurement – The State Court Administrator for Information Technology, the Court Improvement Director, and the CIP Staff Attorney will be working closely with local court-agency collaborative groups to develop a long range plan that will work towards the goal of all Nebraska Courts having the ability to track individual cases, cases in the aggregate, outcomes for children, and the performance of judges. This planning will include close collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

1.2.4 Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court

This court has just completed a re-engineering analysis of the lump sum settlement process. This court's settlement process differs markedly from every other court in the State of Nebraska. The lump sum settlement process is tightly controlled by statute and rule. One focus of this analysis is the amount of control that can be exerted on information required in the filings for approval of these lump sum settlements. It appears going into the analysis that controlling and standardizing inputs to separate and classify specific case information will allow the court to decrease "turn around time" which is the time it takes to approve or disapprove lump sum settlement applications. This approach uses a basic triage of the applications for approval of lump sum settlement and depends on information received and documented electronically.

Successful work toward classification of electronic information in the lump sum settlement process will provide benefits to other sections of the court. An example of this will be the implementation of the ability to categorize petition filings in contested cases to determine case progression guidelines including the setting of trial dates. This categorization will be made according to nature and type of claimed injury; whether or not the claimant is receiving benefits; the complexity of the issues to be presented to the court; and other valid criteria to be developed in the future.

Lastly, with the document management and workflow efforts outlined above, case management will almost be self-fulfilling. Case management, however broadly or narrowly that term is used, involves control of the timing of information flow, whether that be electronic filing, receipt, storage, dissemination of information, or timing of motion or trial practice in differing localities. Effective changes in case management will significantly meet the demands of this court's client base.

In summary, the ground level work in vocational rehabilitation with respect to internal document management and composing, followed closely by implementation of a broad and powerful workflow tool set will be given all reasonable priority through the 2005/2006 biennium – the next biennium. In that regard, a consultant has been retained and will be used early in the second half of this biennium (from August through December, 2006) to analyze the results of all re-engineering efforts discussed above and make narrow recommendations with respect to the direction to most effectively proceed. This will be followed by direct implementation of the chosen solution sets for document

management, composing, and implementation of tools to analyze and change business workflow.

1.2.5 Specialty Courts

The Specialty Courts continues to look for hardware and software that will allow for consolidation of all of the Specialty Courts onto a single system. The proposed new system would have common reporting and data entry structures.

Possible collaboration with the Nebraska Probation Management Information System (NPMIS) is being researched. It appears the NPMIS system has many features and functions required by the Specialty Courts.

1.2.6 Administrative Office of the Courts

The AOC is working on Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity planning for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

The AOC is working with the Counsel for Discipline's office to create a history file of discipline actions and place the file on the Court's web site. This will provide the public a place to review attorney discipline actions.

Information Technology goals that affect Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, Probation, Reporter's Office, Law Library and Counsel for Discipline.

Place a Windows Server Update System (WSUS) into service. This will be used to keep client PC's up-to-date with Microsoft patches.

Upgrade the Dynamic Host Control Protocol (DHCP) server - currently on a 5+ year old Dell server which could fail. DHCP is used to assign nodes on the network an IP address so they can communicate on the Local Area Network.

Move the Electronic In-Out (EIO) software onto a server box in place of a workstation. EIO is an application the AOC uses that helps track staff location, calendar times and conference room scheduling.

Research and implement procedures that allow software patches and upgrades to be pushed from the server to our clients.

Allow all remote offices to VPN into the Supreme Court's network. This work that carries over into fulfilling data backup and disaster recovery needs.

1.2.7 Probation

The Office of Probation Administration has a separate Strategic Plan that includes their information technology goals from 2006 to 2011.

1.3 What We Would Like To Do

This section briefly describes what we would like to do with technology in the courts going forward.

1.3.1 Supreme Court

The Supreme Court will through the work of the Technology Committee move forward on a variety of technology issues and projects.

The Supreme Court will continue to make progress with the use of technology. Consolidation of systems to a single application that provides case and financial management services for all courts is the ultimate goal.

Integration of the existing Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Clerk's case management system with JUSTICE is a high priority and should occur within the next two years. This will provide additional benefits including public fee based access through Nebraska.gov and allow for seamless transfer of case management data from the District Courts.

Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plan development and adoption will occur within the next year for the Judicial Branch.

Research into national organizations and other State Judicial branches with regard to technology issues, rules and policies will be ongoing to assist the Technical Committee in development of solutions for Court's use of technology.

1.3.2 Court of Appeals

Integration of the existing Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Clerk's case management system with JUSTICE is a high priority and should occur within the next two years.

Work will continue to network the remote locations of the Court of Appeals into the Supreme Court local area network. This is for the purpose of better data backup and disaster recovery planning.

1.3.3 Trial Courts

District and County Courts will move forward on Electronic-filing and credit card payment of fines and fees. Digital Recorders will replace the analog tape recorders in County Courts.

Computer based technology training via the Internet will continue to be available for Trial Court Judges and court employees. It is a high priority that technology training is made available for court employees statewide.

Web site templates for Trial Courts will be developed and made available for courts to use. Disaster Recovery plans will be developed and tested in trial courts.

Planning will occur to assist the Small Claims and Pro Se filers in making for a better experience for doing business with the trial courts.

Providing additional personal computers for staff and upgrading or refreshing of older equipment are also on the list of improvements. A five year goal is to eliminate all green screen terminals in the trial courts.

Standards for technology use in a courtroom will be developed and adopted into court rules. Video Arraignment and Video Interpreter systems will be reviewed. More imaging systems will be placed into the trial courts.

Exploring the option of integrating the Douglas County District Court case management system to JUSTICE will take place. An interface between JUSTICE and the Nebraska Probation Management Information System (NPMIS) will be created to allow for the seamless flow of data from JUSTICE to NPMIS.

An evaluation of the long-term direction of JUSTICE will be completed with recommendations given to the Technology Committee for guidance.

Douglas County District Court

The Douglas County 4th District Court will continue to work towards an E-filing system that will integrate/eliminate the EDS system and include a comprehensive court calendar. The Douglas County 4th District Court will continue to explore ways to provide electronic resources to Pro Se litigants seeking to understand and access the court system.

Separate Juvenile Courts

Replace the current paper delivery of Court Orders to the HHS NFOCUS Division, with electronically transmitted Court Orders from JUSTICE to HHS NFOCUS. This will cut down delivery time from days to hours and will reduce data entry errors into NFOCUS applications. The financial aspect for this project is to be determined. Timeframe is estimated to be July 2007 to December 2007.

Analyze the performance of the improvements made in FY 2006. This will be accomplished by establishing performance measures based upon a survey of Judges and court staff. The survey results will set a baseline for planning improvements going forward. . The financial aspect for this project is to be determined. Timeframe is estimated to be July 2007 to December 2008.

Explore the option of integrating the Douglas County Separate Juvenile District Court to JUSTICE. This will require a conversion cost estimate and working with Douglas County Dot.Comm to plan for a possible conversion of their court data to JUSTICE data. The financial aspect for this project is to be determined. Timeframe is estimated to be January 2008 to June 2008.

Attend Child Welfare Data Conference – Have one staff member attend the Children's Bureau's National Child Welfare Data Conference. Timeframe June 2008.

Continued development and assessment of progress regarding data collection/analysis and judicial performance measurement – The Deputy State Court Administrator for Information Technology, the Court Improvement Project Director, and the CIP Staff Attorney will be working closely with local court-agency collaborative groups to continue to work towards the long range goal of all Nebraska Courts having the ability to track individual cases, cases in the aggregate, outcomes for children, and the performance of judges. This planning will include close collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

1.3.4 Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court

The Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court has a separate Strategic Plan that includes information technology goals from 2006 to 2011.

1.3.5 Specialty Courts

Potential utilization of the Nebraska Probation Management System (NPMIS) as the default Specialty Court database system residing on a single server will be explored.

Work will continue to provide technology to the Specialty Courts that will enable their staff to be more productive and create better more useful reports with data collected.

1.3.6 Administrative Office of the Courts

The AOC work with Nebraska.gov to explore additional services via the state web portal.

The AOC will develop written policies on data sharing with other state agencies and on data security.

The AOC will continue to look for ways to get better technology out to all courts. Finding ways to provide training and educating staff on technology and the uses of technology to improve court processes is a very high priority.

1.3.7 Probation

The Office of Probation Administration has a separate Strategic Plan that includes their information technology goals from 2006 to 2011.

2 Mission Statement

To proactively represent the computing, communications, and information technology concerns of the judicial branch and legal community in visioning, policy setting, and strategic planning.

To provide timely input, advice, and feedback to the Chief Justice on policy, proposals, implementation projects, and other information technology related issues.

To be a catalyst within the judicial branch in adapting technology to meet the mission of the judiciary and the needs of the people of the State of Nebraska.

3 Business Goals

In Section Three of the Strategic Plan six high level goals have been developed. These goals are further identified and defined in Section Four of the Strategic Plan as Enabling Technology Goals. In Section Five of the Strategic Plan, Benchmark Areas for measuring the progress toward the goals are defined.

3.1 Technologies

Nebraska's courts will have equal distribution of technology and bandwidth across all courts. Equal distribution of technology and bandwidth will allow Nebraska's court system to provide a better experience for all citizens of Nebraska.

3.2 Standards

Through the use of standards Nebraska courts will make every effort for the uniform collection of information.

3.3 Jurisdictional Boundaries

Nebraska courts will use technology to identify and respond to trends that are challenging today's traditional jurisdictional boundaries, recognizing these efforts must consider existing laws, court rules and professional ethics. (The purpose of this goal is to recognize that through technology there are opportunities to cross geographical and jurisdictional boundaries. It is our intent to be mindful to review and suggest changes to relevant statutes and rules to restrict if appropriate.)

3.4 Technology Rules and Statutes

Nebraska courts will proactively explore and update court rules to be useful in working with technology advances.

3.5 JUSTICE

Nebraska courts will develop a long term plan for the JUSTICE case and financial management system.

3.6 Data Collection and Sharing

Nebraska courts will collect and share data in an appropriate manner.

4 Enabling Technology Goals

Section Four of the Strategic Plan contains Enabling Technology Goals that are drilled down and expanded into sub-goals and objectives.

4.1 Technologies

Nebraska's courts will have equal distribution of technology and bandwidth across all courts. Equal distribution of technology and bandwidth will allow Nebraska's court system to provide a better experience for all citizens of Nebraska.

4.1.1 Identify and define court technology improvements.

- 4.1.1.1 Utilize digital recorders to replace analog tape recorders in County courts.
- 4.1.1.2 Initiate Electronic Filing services in the trial courts
- 4.1.1.3 Establish the use of the E-Citation in more jurisdictions and accept credit card payments for paying fines and fees.
- 4.1.1.4 Establish the minimum hardware requirements for evidence presentation in trial courts.
- 4.1.1.5 Implement electronic or credit card payment in courts.
- 4.1.1.6 Implement electronic claim process in courts statewide.
- 4.1.1.7 Participate in planning for network and technology services in new or remodeled courtrooms in Nebraska
- 4.1.1.8 Plan for and participate in the implementation of video arraignment technology in trial courts.
- 4.1.1.9 Participate and plan for the use of Remote Video Interpreter services in Nebraska courts.

4.1.2 Create and define technology training for court staff.

- 4.1.2.1 Provide appropriate software (word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and e-mail) for trial court staff.
- 4.1.2.2 Provide computer or web based technology training to court staff

4.1.3 Identify technology investments that move the courts toward a common system and use of technology.

- 4.1.3.1 Participate with Nebraska Information Technology Commission to obtain funding for court related technology projects throughout the state.
- 4.1.3.2 Participate in Court Improvement Project (CIP) funding for juvenile court projects.
- 4.1.3.3 Seek additional funding through a variety of grant applications.
- 4.1.4 Create centralized and uniform web site information standards and guidelines for trial courts.**
- 4.1.4.1 Plan and deploy standardized trial court web pages on the Supreme Court web site.
- 4.1.5 Identify appropriate communications bandwidth services for all courts.**
- 4.1.5.1 Work with the Office of the CIO, Network Services group to ensure the appropriate amount of bandwidth is available to all courts to engage in judicial proceedings.
- 4.1.5.2 Anticipate and plan for increased technical capabilities in courts, this includes but is not limited to use of the Internet, digital video, audio recordings, remote access to a court.
- 4.1.6 Explore outsourcing of technology applications through the use of electronic service providers or off-the-shelf software applications.**
- 4.1.6.1 Evaluate how other states are deploying systems for court and administrative use.
- 4.1.6.2 Participate with national organizations to explore the use of electronic service providers and off-the-shelf software.
- 4.1.7 Ensure that technology does not create a segment of society that is not able to participate in the judicial process. Plan for the “Pro Se” filer to use technology through public access.**
- 4.1.7.1 Plan for the “Pro Se” client when developing technical applications. Anticipate how the general public will communicate with the courts when deploying new technology.
- 4.1.8 Provide rural courts the same technical functionality as urban courts.**
- 4.1.8.1 Provide additional personal computer hardware for trial court staff.
- 4.1.8.2 Ensure an equal distribution of technology assets and functionality between rural and urban courts.
- 4.1.9 Plan and assist Specialty Courts use of technology.**

4.1.9.1 Work closely with the Specialty courts to appropriately invest in new technology that meets the needs of the courts.

4.1.9.2 Anticipate and plan for additional Specialty courts across Nebraska.

4.1.10 Set the correct level of expectation with regard to use of technology in the Judicial Branch.

4.1.10.1 Communicate with the Court Administrator and court staff to ensure the level of expectation is set correctly with regard to the use of technology in the judicial branch.

4.1.11 Create Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plans for the Judicial Branch.

4.1.11.1 Develop and implement a disaster recovery and business continuity plan for the judicial branch.

4.2 Standards

Through the use of standards Nebraska courts will make every effort for the uniform collection of information.

4.2.1 Identify the need and define courtroom technology standards.

4.2.1.1 Identify and define technology standards for Nebraska courts.

4.2.1.2 Where applicable use national technology standards.

4.2.1.3 Participate with national organizations in the development of technology standards.

4.3 Jurisdictional Boundaries

Nebraska courts will use technology to identify and respond to trends that are challenging today's traditional jurisdictional boundaries, recognizing these efforts must consider existing laws, court rules and professional ethics.

4.3.1 Understand the issues presented by pro se litigation, use technology to adapt.

4.3.1.1 Improve the filing experience for Small Claim Filers

4.3.1.2 Improve the filing experience for Pro Se Filers.

4.3.2 Understand and plan for efforts among lawyers to practice law in multiple jurisdictions subject to the requirements of State of Nebraska statutes, court rules and profession ethics.

4.3.2.1 Take notice of national trends with regard to jurisdictional boundary issues.

4.3.2.2 Work with the Nebraska State Bar Association to monitor developments in this area.

4.3.3 Understand and plan for the desire for litigants and lawyers to appear by telephone, video or the Internet in lieu of appearing in person at a courtroom.

4.3.3.1 Assist in the development of standards and policies on the use of video arraignment in Nebraska courts.

4.3.3.2 Initiate the use of a video interpreter service in a pilot court.

4.4 Technology Rules and Statutes

Nebraska courts will proactively explore and update court rules to be useful in working with technology issues.

4.4.1 Ensure that court rules are up-to-date with current technology practices

4.4.1.1 Ensure the Rules for Digital Signatures are adhered to when deploying this technology. Inform the Supreme Court when changes are necessary.

4.4.1.2 Ensure the Rules for E-Filing are adhered to when deploying this technology. Inform the Supreme Court when changes are necessary.

4.4.1.3 Ensure the Rules for Electronic Payment are adhered to when deploying this technology. Inform the Supreme Court when changes are necessary.

4.4.1.4 Ensure the Rules for Uniform Traffic Citation and Complaint form are adhered to when deploying this technology. Inform the Supreme Court when changes are necessary.

4.4.1.5 Ensure the Rules for Bill of Exceptions are adhered to when using technology. Inform the Supreme Court when changes are necessary.

4.4.1.6 Develop processes and procedures that allow for the highest level of protection and privacy of personal data

4.4.2 Work proactively with Judicial Branch committees on technology matters as they apply to suggested changes in State Statutes.

4.4.2.1 Meet with judicial branch committees on an as needed basis to plan and discuss technical matters as they apply to changes in state statutes.

4.4.3 Keep abreast of technology policy changes as they apply to court proceedings or processes by national judicial organizations.

4.4.3.1 Maintain an active interest and understanding of national judicial organizations' technology policy issues.

4.5 JUSTICE

Nebraska courts will develop a long term plan for the JUSTICE case and financial management system.

4.5.1 Evaluate the long term use or potential replacement of the JUSTICE financial and case management system.

- 4.5.1.1 Continue the replacement of terminals with personal computers for judges and court staff.
- 4.5.1.2 Implement continuous refreshing of older equipment/hardware on a scheduled three to four year basis.
- 4.5.1.3 Evaluate the JUSTICE case and financial management system for long term direction and change. What is the expected life of this system? What changes can be reasonably and appropriately made to improve the system? What type of user interface should be used for JUSTICE? Should an investment be made to change the user interface from a “green screen” format to be more of a web based look and feel?
- 4.5.1.4 Develop a plan to integrate JUSTICE with the Douglas County District Court.
- 4.5.1.5 Determine and develop system requirements to replace JUSTICE

4.5.2 Create a JUSTICE interface with Probation’s NPMIS system to allow data to be electronically transferred from JUSTICE to NPMIS to reduce re-entering of data and creation of errors in the data.

- 4.5.2.1 Develop an interface between JUSTICE and NPMIS.
- 4.5.2.2 Continue to explore other opportunities to share JUSTICE data with other governmental entities as appropriate.

4.6 Data Collection and Sharing

Nebraska courts will collect and share data in an appropriate manner.

4.6.1 Proactively be alert for the potential and actual misuse of collected data for court systems.

- 4.6.1.1 Ensure systems and applications are not compromised for the misuse of collected data.

4.6.2 Use technology appropriately.

- 4.6.2.1 Ensure systems and applications in use are utilized in an appropriate manner.

4.6.3 Proactively use redaction where possible on personal/private information in accordance with court rules and state statutes.

4.6.3.1 Redact personal/private information in accordance with court rules and state statutes.

4.6.4 Continue to expand court data sharing with other state agencies where appropriate.

4.6.4.1 Continue to expand JUSTICE data sharing with other state agencies where appropriate.

4.6.4.2 Continue to expand court data sharing with other state agencies where appropriate.

4.6.5 Continue to allow subscription based public access to court data via the Internet.

4.6.5.1 Use Nebraska.gov to provide subscription based public access to court data.

4.6.6 Expand subscription based public access to appellate court data via the Internet.

4.6.6.1 Expand public access to appellate court data with Nebraska.gov.

4.6.7 Encourage increased accountability through the use of technology.

4.6.7.1 Use technology to increase system and application accountability.

4.6.8 Insure the highest level of security for collected and shared data.

4.6.8.1 Monitor security issues on collected and shared data.

4.6.9 Stay current of new security matters regarding technology.

4.6.9.1 Increase knowledge of technical security issues and practices.

4.6.9.2 Participate with Nebraska Information Technology Commission's Information Security committee.

4.6.10 Be clear in the issue of "ownership of data" court filings and court generated data are owned by the court.

4.6.10.1 Establish clear delineation on the ownership of court generated data.

4.6.11 Develop a standard set of data elements to be used in data sharing applications.

4.6.11.1 Work with other judicial entities to develop a standard set of data elements to be used in the sharing of data.

4.6.12 When creating/changing forms in JUSTICE; engage the trial court judges and staff in the development phase.

4.6.12.1 Engage the JUSTICE Automation Committee when creating or changing forms in JUSTICE.

4.6.12.2 Engage the District Court Judges Association and the County Court Judges Association as appropriate when creating or changing forms in JUSTICE.

4.6.13 Use national resources when developing new processes do not rely solely on Nebraska based resources.

4.6.13.1 Explore on a national basis the use of new technology and processes for the judicial branch of government.

5 Benchmark Areas

Section Five contains the benchmark measurements for success for each on the sub-goals and objectives in Section Four.

5.1 Technologies

Nebraska's courts will have equal distribution of technology and bandwidth across all courts. Equal distribution of technology and bandwidth will allow Nebraska's court system to provide a better experience for all citizens of Nebraska.

5.1.1 Identify and define court technology improvements.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Replacing 20 analog recording devices in County Courts,
- Electronic Filing will be in place in 10 District Court and 10 County Courts,
- The use of credit card payments will be expanded to 10 additional Courts,
- Participate as appropriate in network and technology planning for new or remodeled courtrooms,
- Participate as appropriate with courts implementing video arraignment,
- Participate as appropriate with the implementation of video interpreter services.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Replacing an additional 20 analog recording devices in County Courts,
- Electronic Filing will be in place in 15 District Court and 15 County Courts,
- The use of credit card payments will be expanded to 30 additional Courts,
- Minimum hardware requirements for evidence presentation will be established through Court Rules.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Replacement of all analog recording devices in County Courts,
- Electronic Filing will be in place in all District Court and all County Courts,
- The use of credit card payments will be expanded to all Courts.

5.1.2 Create and define technology training for court staff.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Providing computer based training courses for all judges and court employees,
- Providing up-to-date word processing, spreadsheet, presentation software with every PC that is state funded and delivered to a court,
- Providing government electronic mail accounts to all judges and court employees.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Requiring 50% of court employees to have completed at least one technology training course,

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Requiring 100% of court employees to have completed at least two technology training courses,

5.1.3 Identify technology investments that move the courts toward a common system and use of technology.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Having a minimum of one technology related funding request to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission approved for funding.
- Using Court Improvement Project funding to assist in the development of juvenile court programming in JUSTICE to meet American Safe Family Act guidelines.
- Submitting at a minimum one grant proposal for additional technology funding.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Using Court Improvement Project funding to complete the development of juvenile court programming in JUSTICE to meet American Safe Family Act guidelines.
- Submitting at minimum one grant proposal for additional technology funding.
- Converting the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Clerk's case management system to JUSTICE with appropriate interfaces for seamless electronic transfer of case data.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Identifying costs for the upgrade/conversion of JUSTICE to a graphical user interface.

5.1.4 Create centralized and uniform web site information standards and guidelines for trial courts.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Appointing a committee to build guidelines to create uniform web site standards and guidelines.
- Building a web site template suitable for use by trial courts.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Bringing 50% of trial courts on to the web site template.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Having 100% of trial courts using the web site template.

5.1.5 Identify appropriate communications bandwidth services for all courts.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Having verified with the Office of the CIO bandwidth uses and needs at each courthouse.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Ensuring the every courtroom has suitable bandwidth to use technology in an effective and efficient manner based on the technology recommendations from the Courtroom Enhancement subcommittee.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Ensuring the every courtroom has suitable bandwidth to use technology in an effective and efficient manner based on the technology recommendations from the Courtroom Enhancement subcommittee.

5.1.6 Explore outsourcing of technology applications through the use of electronic service providers or off-the-shelf software applications.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Researching other states through the National Center for State Courts data to learn what systems they use for court and administrative use. Report to the Technology Committee on findings.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- To be determined by the Nebraska Supreme Court based upon recommendations from the Technology Committee.

5.1.7 Ensure that technology does not create a segment of society that is not able to participate in the judicial process. Plan for the “Pro Se” filer to use technology through public access.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Updating the Court’s web site with information targeting the Pro Se filer.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Including Pro Se filers for using E-Filing when submitting files to the court.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Providing additional services for Pro Se filers.

5.1.8 Provide rural courts the same technical functionality as urban courts.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Replacing green screen terminals with personal computers and updating other hardware as appropriate.
- Working with the Courtroom Enhancement subcommittee to ensure technical functionality is equal between urban and rural courts.
- Identifying any gaps in technology and work to eliminate them.
- Reporting to the Technology Committee findings.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- To be determined by the Nebraska Supreme Court based upon recommendations from the Technology Committee.

5.1.9 Plan and assist Specialty Courts use of technology.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Planning for the conversion of Specialty Courts on to a single server system with robust reporting capabilities and adding of new Courts into the system.
- Using JUSTICE to record receipts of fees.

5.1.10 Set the correct level of expectation with regard to use of technology in the Judicial Branch.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Reporting to the Technology Committee successes and failures of the pervious year.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- To be determined by the Nebraska Supreme Court based upon recommendations from the Technology Committee.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- To be determined by the Nebraska Supreme Court based upon recommendations from the Technology Committee.

5.1.11 Create Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plans for the Judicial Branch.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Having in place a Disaster Recovery and Business plan for the Nebraska Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.
- Conducting a minimum of one test of the plan using a desktop scenario.
- Building a Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plan template for use by trial courts.
- Incorporating in the Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plans a special section regarding evidence safekeeping.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Conducting an annual test of the Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plan.
- Ensuring the Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plan is updated on a quarterly or semi annual basis.
- Having Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plans in place for 50% of trial courts.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Having Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plans in place for 100% of trial courts.

5.2 Standards

Through the use of standards Nebraska courts will make every effort for the uniform collection of information.

5.2.1 Identify the need and define courtroom technology standards.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Working with the Technology Committee and the Courtroom Enhancement Subcommittee to identify and define technology standards for Nebraska Courts.
- Researching National Judicial organizations for the standards they recommend and utilize for Courts.
- Participating as a member of the Court Information Technology Officers Consortium.
- Reporting to the Technology Committee findings.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- To be determined by the Nebraska Supreme Court based upon recommendations from the Technology Committee.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- To be determined by the Nebraska Supreme Court based upon recommendations from the Technology Committee.

5.3 Jurisdictional Boundaries

Nebraska courts will use technology to identify and respond to trends that are challenging today's traditional jurisdictional boundaries, recognizing these efforts must consider existing laws, court rules and professional ethics.

5.3.1 Understand the issues presented by pro se litigation, use technology to adapt.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Researching how other states are using technology to assist Small Claims and Pro Se filers.
- Developing a report for the Technology Committee that contains recommendations on how we can improve in the area of Small Claims and Pro Se filers.

5.3.2 Understand and plan for efforts among lawyers to practice law in multiple jurisdictions subject to the requirements of State of Nebraska statutes, court rules and profession ethics.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Staying aware of national trends in this area.
- Monitoring developments in this area along with the Nebraska State Bar Association.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Monitoring developments in this area along with the Nebraska State Bar Association.

5.3.3 Understand and plan for the desire for litigants and lawyers to appear by telephone, video or the Internet in lieu of appearing in person at a courtroom.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Participating as appropriate with the implementation of video interpreter services.
- Participating as appropriate with the implementation of video arraignments.
- Recommending Rules/Policies for using technologies in Nebraska Courts.
- Staying up-to-date on newer technologies that may find use in a courtroom (i.e. pod-casting, internet access, etc).

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Monitoring the use of technology with regard to Court Rules and policies.
- Recommending Rules/Policies changes for using technologies in Nebraska Courts.
- Staying up-to-date on newer technologies that may find use in a courtroom (i.e. pod-casting, internet access, etc).

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Monitoring the use of technology with regard to Court Rules and policies.
- Recommending Rules/Policies changes for using technologies in Nebraska Courts.
- Staying up-to-date on newer technologies that may find use in a courtroom (i.e. pod-casting, internet access, etc).

5.4 Technology Rules and Statutes

Nebraska courts will proactively explore and update court rules to be useful in working with technology issues.

5.4.1 Ensure that court rules are up-to-date with current technology practices

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Reviewing annually Court Rules regarding the use of technology.
- Notifying Technology Committee of recommended changes or additions.
- Being current on national and state trends regarding the protection and privacy of personal data.

5.4.2 Work proactively with Judicial Branch committees on technology matters as they apply to suggested changes in State Statutes.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Working with Judicial Branch committees as appropriate to review and discuss technical matters as they apply to state statutes.
- Monitoring the potential impact of legislation as it applies to technology used in courts.

- Setting up a process to report findings to the Technology Committee.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- To be determined by the Nebraska Supreme Court based upon recommendations from the Technology Committee.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- To be determined by the Nebraska Supreme Court based upon recommendations from the Technology Committee.

5.4.3 Keep abreast of technology policy changes as they apply to court proceedings or processes by national judicial organizations.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Maintaining an active interest and understanding of national judicial organizations' technology policy issues and reporting to the Technology Committee areas for concern or further research.

5.5 JUSTICE

Nebraska courts will develop a long term plan for the JUSTICE case and financial management system.

5.5.1 Evaluate the long term use or potential replacement of the JUSTICE financial and case management system.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Reducing the number of green screen terminals to less than 200 statewide.
- Adding personal computers in the trial courts so that 75% of court employees are using computers when using JUSTICE.
- Implementing conversion of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Clerk's case management system to JUSTICE.
- Developing a plan to integrate the Douglas County District Court and Separate Juvenile Court case management system with JUSTICE.
- Implementing as appropriate problem log refinements and updates to JUSTICE.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Reducing the number of green screen terminals to less than 100 statewide.
- Adding personal computers in the trial courts so that 100% of court employees are using computers when using JUSTICE.
- Ensuring older hardware and personal computers are refreshed on a three year basis.
- Processing 100% of all Nebraska Court cases filed through JUSTICE.
- Determining system requirements to replace or convert the JUSTICE financial and case management application.
- Implementing as appropriate problem log refinements and updates to JUSTICE

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Elimination of all green screen terminals.
- Ensuring older hardware and personal computers are refreshed on a three year basis.

5.5.2 Create a JUSTICE interface with Probation's NPMIS system to allow data to be electronically transferred from JUSTICE to NPMIS to reduce re-entering of data and creation of errors in the data.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Implementation of data sharing between NPMIS and JUSTICE.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Successfully passing of case information between NPMIS and JUSTICE.

In five years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Continuing to share JUSTICE data with other governmental entities as appropriate.

5.6 Data Collection and Sharing

Nebraska courts will collect and share data in an appropriate manner.

5.6.1 Proactively be alert for the potential and actual misuse of collected data for court systems.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Working with the Office of the CIO and other state agencies to ensure court collected data is not misused.
- Establishing written agreements on data use with agencies that share court generated data.
- Working with Nebraska.gov to ensure JUSTICE data placed in a fee based subscription service is not misused.
- Staying current on schemes surrounding the use of court data.

5.6.2 Use technology appropriately.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- By annually reviewing the Court's written Acceptable Use Policy on the use of technology.
- By annually reviewing and updating the Court's Security Policies

5.6.3 Proactively use redaction where possible on personal/private information in accordance with court rules and state statutes.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- By being aware of Court Rules or State Statutes regarding the protection of personal data.

- By maintaining awareness in Court Rules or State Statutes regarding the use of redaction in safeguarding personal data.

5.6.4 Continue to expand court data sharing with other state agencies where appropriate.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Annually reviewing the number of agencies receiving data for JUSTICE or other Court generated data and providing a report to the Technology Committee.
- Working appropriately with state agencies when expanding data sharing of the Court's information.

5.6.5 Continue to allow subscription based public access to court data via the Internet.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Meeting quarterly with Nebraska.gov management to review number of subscribers including individual and bulk subscriptions.
- Working with the Technology Committee and Nebraska.gov management to define improvements or changes to this service.
- Providing an annual report to the Technology Committee summarizing public access to court data.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Increasing fee based subscription by 10%.
- Developing at a minimum one new service product for the public.

5.6.6 Expand subscription based public access to appellate court data via the Internet.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Planning for public electronic access to appellate court data.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Delivering public electronic access to appellate court data.

5.6.7 Encourage increased accountability through the use of technology.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Providing a report to the Technology Committee regarding accountability efforts within case management systems.

5.6.8 Insure the highest level of security for collected and shared data.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Developing a written security policy for collected and shared data.

In two years success will be measured for this goal by:

- Developing a training course for court employees regarding the security of court data.

5.6.9 Stay current of new security matters regarding technology.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Attending at least one conference that deals with data security issues and practices.
- Participating with Nebraska Information Technology Commission's Information Security committee.

5.6.10 Be clear in the issue of "ownership of data" court filings and court generated data are owned by the court.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Including in the written security and data sharing policy a clear definition of court generated and owned data.

5.6.11 Develop a standard set of data elements to be used in data sharing applications.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Working with other judicial entities to develop a standard set of data elements to be used in the sharing of data.

5.6.12 When creating/changing forms in JUSTICE; engage the trial court judges and staff in the development phase.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Engaging the JUSTICE Automation Committee when creating or changing forms in JUSTICE.
- Engaging the District Court Judges Association and the County Court Judges Association as appropriate when creating or changing forms in JUSTICE.

5.6.13 Use national resources when developing new processes do not rely solely on Nebraska based resources.

In one year success will be measured for this goal by:

- Exploring on a national basis the use of new technology and processes for the judicial branch of government.

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix A – List of Technology Committee Members

The Honorable William Cassel, Chair, Nebraska Court of Appeals
The Honorable Kenneth C. Stephan, Nebraska Supreme Court
The Honorable Gary B. Randall, Douglas County District Court
The Honorable John A. Colborn, Lancaster County District Court
The Honorable Michael K. High, Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court
The Honorable Douglas F. Johnson, Douglas County Separate Juvenile Court
The Honorable Roger J. Heideman, Lancaster County Separate Juvenile Court
The Honorable L. Curtis Maschman, Richardson County Judge
Warren R. Whitted, Jr., Attorney at Law
William J. Lindsay, Jr., Attorney at Law
William E. Olson, Jr., Attorney at Law
Les Seiler, Attorney at Law
Thomas W. Tye, II, Attorney at Law
William L. Howland, General Counsel, Accountability & Disclosure Commission
Richard Leiter, UNL College of Law
Craig Dallan, Professor, Creighton School of Law
Rudy Tesar, Clerk of the Douglas County District Court
Ann Rosenberry, Clerk of the District Court, Scotts Bluff County District Court
Barbara Pousson, Judicial Administrator, Sarpy County Courthouse
Janet Bancroft, Court Administrator's Office
Dave Wegner, Deputy Probation Administrator
Janice Walker, State Court Administrator
William Miller, Court Administrator's Office

Individuals participating but not appointed:

Paula Crouse, JUSTICE Business Analyst
Randy Cecrle, Chief I.T. Officer, Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court